UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/52/L.14/Rev.2
12 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Liberia: revised draft resolution

Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Noting that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure as a result of years of mismanagement,

Noting also that the Democratic Republic of the Congo encounters serious difficulties in sustaining reconstruction and development programmes in spite of efforts that are being made by the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Deeply concerned about the extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure and the environment suffered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the result of recent events,

Bearing in mind that the Democratic Republic of the Congo also suffers from problems encountered by a country that has received thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries,

Recognizing the need for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take all possible measures to ensure the safety and security of refugees and displaced persons and safe and unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance, in accordance with the principles and norms of humanitarian law and in conformity with national law,

Gravely concerned about the continuation of armed confrontation in the Great Lakes region, threatening regional peace and stability, and the attendant displacement of families and interruptions in the process of repatriating refugees,

Taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[1] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, and the mutual commitment entered into on that occasion,

Convinced that the Democratic Republic of the Congo needs urgent international assistance to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of its damaged economy,

Welcoming the "Friends of the Congo" meeting chaired by the World Bank in Brussels on 4 December 1997 as an important step in the establishment of a dialogue between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the donor community on the future development of the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

1. Recognizes the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for national rehabilitation and reconstruction, and encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue sound macroeconomic policies and to promote good governance and the rule of the law;

2. Invites the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction and reaffirming the need for respect for the provisions of humanitarian law;

3. Invites all Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international development and financial institutions, to assist in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to contribute appropriately, through bilateral or multilateral channels, towards the implementation of that rehabilitation and reconstruction in accordance with national priorities;

4. Calls upon regional and interregional organizations, as well as international development and financial institutions, to continue to give consideration to the establishment of a programme of assistance for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with its national priorities;

5. Requests the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to review regularly their current and future programmes of assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to cooperate closely in organizing an effective international programme of assistance;

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[1] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

6. Invites the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to consider the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

7. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, associated bodies and other humanitarian organizations and agencies, including relevant non-governmental organizations, in assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country;

8. Calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to facilitate, in accordance with its national priorities, the work of national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations;

9. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To promote participation in and support for a programme of financial and material assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enable it to meet its urgent needs for economic recovery and reconstruction;

(b) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a sub-item entitled "Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo".